



California Crop Weather

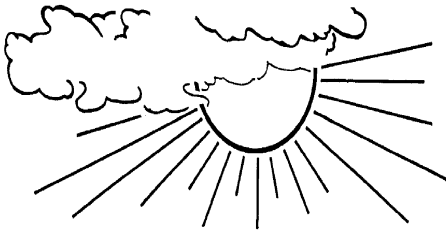
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



A ridge of high pressure was passing over California at the start of the week, resulting in dry conditions with above normal temperatures across most of the state. The high pressure moved quickly east as a low pressure trough pushed through the region on Tuesday. This resulted in a dramatic cool down across the state, with daytime highs Tuesday running 15 to 20 degrees cooler than on Monday. The low pressure system was relatively dry; the only precipitation was observed along the northern coast and over some of the northern mountains. By midweek, weak high pressure began to rebuild over

the West Coast, resulting in another warm up across the state, along with an offshore flow which brought dry conditions. Friday saw another switch in patterns, a low pressure trough swept into the state. The wind patterns again switched to onshore, resulting in cool and cloudy conditions across the coastal areas, and cooler conditions across all the state. Once again, precipitation from this system proved to be spotty, with only a few isolated reports of light rain being noted.

FIELD CROPS

Winter forage and other small grain harvests continued across the state. Dryland grain was being cut for hay as conditions dry the ground. The first cutting of **alfalfa** continued to wind down. Early planted **corn** and **cotton** emergence continued. **Rice** field preparation and planting continued. **Mustard** seed continued in full bloom. **Sugar beet** harvest was underway. **Safflower** fields remained in various stages of growth. **Cilantro** for seed fields were blooming. Sweet **potato** planting advanced.

FRUIT CROPS

Grapes were pushing out and vines were leafing. Irrigation was taking place in vineyards and orchards. **Apples**, **cherries**, **pears**, **pomegranates**, **jujubes** and **prunes** were still blooming in parts of Fresno County. Bloom was ending on cherries and prunes in Tulare County. Many stone fruit trees were thinned. Prunes were showing a good set in Tulare County. Set for prunes, cherries, pears and cling **peaches** appeared light in Yuba County. Kiwi flower buds were out in Yuba County. Spring **strawberries**, **boysenberries** and **blueberries** were still blooming. Picking was underway in some spring strawberry fields. New blueberry bush planting continued. **Mandarins**, **minneolas**, **lemons**, **pummelos** and **oranges** were harvested. Valencia maturity tests were good. Navel oranges were showing more rind break down and puff. Citrus bloom continued. Flower buds were forming on **olives**.

NUT CROPS

Almond groves throughout California were in excellent condition. The crop was developing well and disease pressure remained low given the lack of rainfall. Growers fertilized and irrigated their groves. Catkins were out on **walnuts**. **Pistachios** were blooming. More acres of almonds and pistachios were being planted in Kern County.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Sweet **corn** has emerged in Tulare and Fresno counties. **Melon** beds were being prepared for spring planting. Transplanting of bell **peppers**, **tomatoes** for fresh and processing markets, and melons continued. Nearly all caps have been removed for tomatoes and plants were showing good growth. Early **squash** has started to show set. **Carrots** were being irrigated, cultivated, treated with herbicides, and harvested. **Asparagus**, **broccoli** and head **lettuce** harvests on the Westside continued. Farmer's market crops such as **amaranth**, **basil**, **bok choy**, **beets**, **leeks**, **kale**, greens, **radishes** and **yams** were being harvested. Imperial Valley **onion** fields will start harvest in a week or two with sweet corn harvest numbers increasing. In the Central Valley, planting of fresh market and processing tomatoes and bell peppers continued. **Spinach** for the processing market was being harvested. In Tulare County squash harvest slowed due to cooler weather; quality remained good. **Cucumbers** have started to size up.

LIVESTOCK

Continued dry conditions resulted in further decline of rangelands throughout the state. Supplemental feeding of cattle was still required, and cattle weight gains were reported as average to below average. Calving, lambing, and kidding continued. Sheep were grazing on retired farmland, alfalfa hay fields, or rangeland. Bees remained active in blooming orchards, or were in holding areas awaiting placement. Placement of leafcutter bees near alfalfa seed fields continued.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/20/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/20/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/20/08	January 1 - 04/20/08	Week Ending 04/20/08	July 1 - 04/20/08	July 1 - 04/20/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
Eureka	44	-8	56	32	0	0	0.83	35.68	35.87	37.53
Ukiah	52	-4	82	31	12	0	0.02	27.51	37.73	37.96
Santa Rosa	54	-3	79	34	16	0	0.00	23.97	29.82	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	54	-3	76	42	22	0	0.00	15.88	19.77	19.70
San Jose	56	-4	80	41	34	0	0.00	11.29	14.50	14.42
Salinas AP	53	-4	81	36	27	0	0.00	10.66	12.41	12.44
Monterey FAA	53	-1	72	41	22	0	0.00	7.53	14.59	18.72
King City	54	-4	87	35	28	0	0.00	9.33	11.89	11.44
Paso Robles AP	54	-3	83	29	12	0	0.00	8.61	13.04	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	57	-3	81	31	46	1	0.00	23.21	31.91	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	57	-2	81	33	48	2	0.00	14.72	22.17	22.29
Chico AFS	60	1	91	29	86	0	0.00	19.01	25.03	26.32
Marysville	57	-4	81	32	42	21	0.00	15.47	21.32	21.04
Sacramento AP	56	-3	80	34	26	0	0.00	13.67	17.15	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	57	-3	82	32	31	6	0.00	10.07	13.28	13.95
Fresno	61	-1	84	41	103	33	0.00	8.64	10.68	10.60
Bakersfield	62	-2	87	39	133	58	0.00	2.45	6.17	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	51	-5	77	31	15	0	0.00	11.61	13.79	12.36
Santa Barbara	56	-2	74	39	36	0	0.01	15.84	16.98	16.25
Ventura	55	55	78	40	57	0	0.00	13.24	15.08	14.38
Los Angeles	64	-1	84	50	243	153	0.00	13.41	14.81	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	153	39	0.00	6.31	10.32	9.58
San Diego AP	62	-1	78	54	99	70	0.00	7.26	10.46	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	54	0	81	30	0	0	0.00	7.25	4.58	5.37
Lancaster	57	-2	86	38	22	0	0.00	7.86	7.66	6.92
Daggett AP	66	0	95	43	207	134	0.00	2.58	4.01	3.93
Thermal AP	70	-1	99	44	546	417	0.00	3.58	3.52	3.16
Blythe	72	0	99	48	519	443	0.00	1.96	4.03	3.60
Imperial	71	0	99	46	509	457	0.00	2.37	2.97	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	38	-6	72	13	0	0	0.10	8.67	10.08	12.01
Mt. Shasta	44	-3	74	18	0	0	0.01	27.82	36.97	37.02
Blue Canyon	43	-2	60	19	2	0	0.01	35.70	62.47	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	6	0	0.00	15.74	35.89	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.